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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 05552.1442

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Ralf OTTO et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1743  
)  
Application No.: 09/551,581 ) Examiner: P. Bex  
)  
Filed: April 18, 2000 )  
)  
For: CLOSURE APPLIANCE FOR )  
REAGENT CONTAINERS )

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TC 1700

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the attached documents, and then return the Form PTO 1449 to Applicants with an indication that the Examiner has considered the attached documents.

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With regard to the non-English language documents, in lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, Applicants enclose a search report from the European Patent Office in a corresponding application citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Patent Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
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Dated: November 13, 2003

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